Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 21 Feb 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 22 Feb 2023

Forecast Issued on Monday 20 Feb 2023 at 13:00

Confidence: High

Headline for Tuesday 21 Feb 2023: Cloudy with hill fog and some patchy light rain or drizzle. Fresh southwest breeze, freezing level above the summits.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 21 Feb 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Low Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
FOG	FOG	FOG	FOG	FOG	FOG	FOG	FOG
Fog	Fog	Fog	Fog	Fog	Fog	Fog	Fog
Precipitation probability							
30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	40%

Forecast for Tuesday 21 Feb 2023

Weather: Cloudy with a little drizzle or even some light rain at times but often dry. A few brighter spells in good shelter from the southwest,

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% rising 30% for a time.

Low cloud and visibility: Cloud extensive between 400-600m tending to lift 700-900m for a time around the middle of the day before lowering again later. Bases a little higher in the northeast with perhaps a few breaks

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Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 21 Feb 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	28/34 SW	24/29 SW	24/30 SW	21/27 SW	23/31 SW	25/33 SW	25/33 SW	26/35 SW	26/34 S
600	22/30 SW	18/24 SW	19/25 SW	17/23 SW	21/30 SW	23/32 SW	23/33 SW	23/34 S	20/30 S
300	9/23 SW	8/21 SW	8/20 SW	7/19 SW	11/24 SW	11/26 SW	11/26 SW	12/27 S	10/24 S
Valley	10/22 SW	7/17 SW	8/19 SW	8/18 SW	12/23 SW	12/24 SW	13/25 S	13/26 S	13/26 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	4/-2	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3	2/-4	2/-5	2/-5	1/-5	1/-6
600	6/1	5/1	5/0	4/-0	4/-1	4/-2	4/-2	3/-3	3/-3
300	7/4	7/4	6/4	6/4	7/3	6/3	5/2	5/1	5/1
Valley	9/6	8/7	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/5	8/4	7/4	7/4
Freezing Level*	1800m	1800m	1500m	1600m	1300m	1200m	1300m	1300m	1300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Navigational difficulties will be the main hazard on Tuesday though the chill will be notable at height with summits not that far above freezing.

Forecast for Wednesday 22 Feb 2023

Weather: Some heavier rain will develop in the early hours this turning to snow down to about 700m towards daybreak though it will die out soon after. Cloud then lifting and breaking to give a bright and mainly dry afternoon with some sunshine breaking through, and just the chance of an isolated shower which would be wintry down to 500m.

Maximum wind: In early hours southerly 25 gusts 35mp becoming westerly 15 gusts 25mph in the morning, then northwesterly 20 gusts 30mph towards evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10% early hours rising 40% during the morning and 80% in the afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Cloud at 400-700m at first with occasionally poor visibility in rain and snow then cloud breaking and lifting 800-900m with good visibility in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 6 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 2 early hours then falling to zero in morning and minus 2 in the evening.
Freezing level: Above summits early hours falling 800m by dawn then 600m by evening.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement
Date: Monday 20 February. Full report:
The overwhelming majority of the Lakeland fells up to, and including, the highest summits are clear of snow and ice. The patches of snow that do still exist lie above 900m on steep north and east facing slopes. Despite the fact that the summit temperature around midday was plus 5 degrees C and there was constant drizzle/rain, owing to both the snow's height and aspect the thaw which is occurring is a slow one. However, there's not much left to thaw and, owing to its location, most walkers will not encounter any snow at all. Probably the only snow left on any path in the Lake District lies at Swirral Edge's exit and this is now easily avoided and could well have disappeared completely by Tuesday.

Owing to the lack of winter conditions the main hazards today (and also possibly on Tuesday) was the greasy, wet, slippery rock underfoot and navigational difficulties caused by the low cloud with visibility down to 30m at times.

Despite the appearance of daffodils in the valleys, the summit windchill temperature (what the temperature actually feels like) around midday was below zero (at minus 2 degrees C) which combined with the constant rain/drizzle and wind would quickly chill anyone without any additional clothing. Therefore full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass all remain essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells.

Location: Helvellyn summit at 14:15
Temperature: plus 4.9C, Maximum wind speed 34mph, Wind chill: minus 2.5C, Average wind speed: 25.4mph.

Issued at: 1539 on Mon 20 Feb 2023

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